

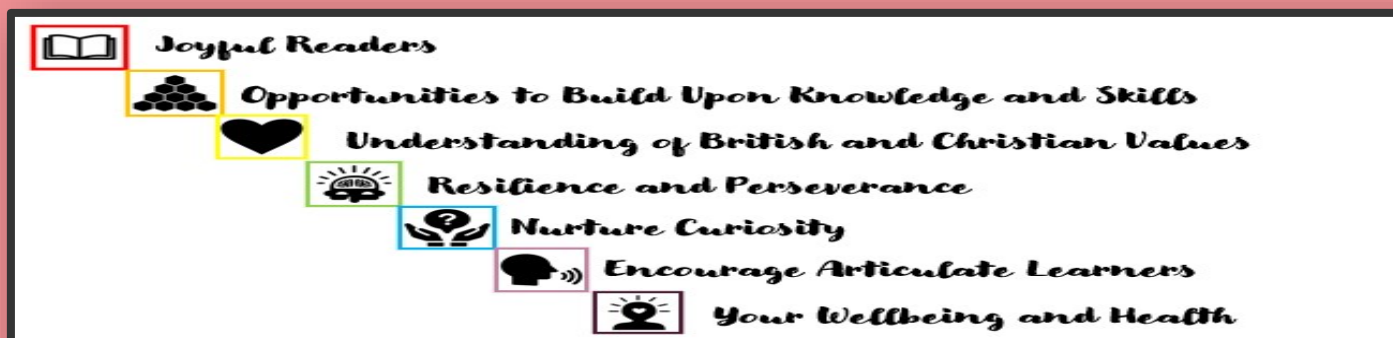


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

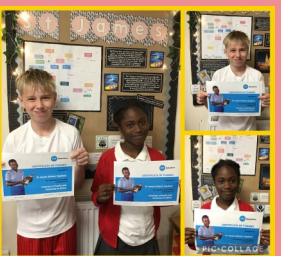
Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God



2024-2025 Issue Number 36 Friday 11th July 2025

**OUR VALUE THIS
HALF TERM IS:
RESPECT**



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began the week with our much-anticipated Transition Week, and it was truly heart-warming to see the excitement on the children's faces as they 'moved up' to their new classes. Watching them begin to build relationships with their new teachers and classmates reminded us of the importance of nurturing confidence and connection as we continue *journeying together to live, learn and laugh with the love of God*.

This week also marked our STEM Themed Week, and what a tremendous success it has been! Our classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. The children have embraced every opportunity to explore the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Research tells us that fostering a love for STEM helps children develop open-mindedness, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of learning—and we've certainly seen that in abundance! It's been especially lovely to see some of you sharing your children's STEM adventures at home on X. Thank you for supporting their learning beyond the classroom.

During the Schools Library Service assembly, the children learned all about this year's St Helens Summer Reading Challenge. The 2025 theme is "Story Garden", which celebrates the magical connection between storytelling and nature. The challenge is free and open to children, teens, and adults—and you don't even need a library card to take part! You can sign up online at sthelens.beanstack.com or visit your local library in person.

A huge well done to our incredible Year 1 children for achieving outstanding results in their Phonics Screening Check—your hard work and determination have truly paid off! And a massive congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for their amazing SATs results—we are so proud of everything you've accomplished. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for their unwavering support and to our wonderful parents for being such an important part of this success. What a fantastic team effort!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Briers

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance Updates

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **97% target**—this will help us to succeed!

Our Whole School attendance to date is 96%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 1.

There were 133 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	95.7%
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	99.3%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4	92.1%
Year 5	95.5%
Year 6	95%





Every Lesson Counts

At St James' CE Primary School



Days off school add up to lost learning and impact on your child's life chances.

175 Non School Days a year



175 DAYS TO SPEND ON HOLI DAYS, FAMILY TIME, VISITS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

190 school days each year for your child's education
EXCELLENT
96% - 100%
Most effective way to success and sets your child off to a flying start.

10 days absence
180 days of education
CONCERNING
LESS THAN 96%
School monitors attendance; it is less than expected.

19 days of absence
170 days of education
WORRYING
Less than 90%
Less chance of success; harder to make progress in learning, friendships and relationships with others.

29 days absence
HALF A TERM MISSED
161 DAYS OF EDUCATION
Serious concerns
Less than 85%
This is not fair on your child. You risk prosecution and a jail term.



Whole School events Summer 2

Date	Event
16/07/2025	Reception Assembly 9.00am
16/07/2025	Year 4 Swimming
18/07/2025	End of Year Report to go Home
22/07/2025	Year 6 to Lead Year 6 Leavers Assembly
22/07/2025	School Closes for Summer 2pm

Term Dates

2025-2026

Autumn Term		Days
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Friday 24 th October 2025	38
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025	35
Spring Term		
Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026	30
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026	25
Summer Term		
Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026	29
Wednesday 3 rd June 2026	Friday 17 th July 2026	33
		190

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Keeping Our Children Safe during the Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to remind all our families of the importance of keeping children safe, happy, and healthy during the break. While summer is a time for fun and relaxation, it also brings unique risks that we must all be mindful of. At our school, safeguarding is always a priority, and we encourage you to continue this commitment at home. Based on guidance from *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024* and trusted child safety experts, here are some key tips to help keep your children safe this summer:

1. Stay Safe in the Sun

- Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30+) regularly, especially after swimming or sweating.
- Encourage children to wear hats, sunglasses, and sun-protective clothing.
- Ensure they take regular breaks in the shade and stay hydrated

2. Water Safety

- Always supervise children near water—whether it's a paddling pool, beach, or public swimming area.
- Designate a responsible adult as a "water watcher" who avoids distractions like phones.
- Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets for non-swimmers and avoid relying on inflatables

3. Online Safety

- With more free time, children may spend longer online. Keep communication open about what they're doing and who they're talking to.
- Use parental controls and privacy settings, and remind children never to share personal information
- Encourage screen-free time and outdoor play to balance digital activity

4. Road and Travel Safety

- Teach children how to cross roads safely and ensure they wear helmets when cycling or scooting.
- Never leave children unattended in vehicles, even for a short time.
- If travelling, ensure car seats are correctly fitted and children are securely buckled in.

5. Emotional Wellbeing

- Summer can be a time of change and uncertainty for some children. Keep routines where possible and check in regularly on how they're feeling.
- Encourage social interaction, creative play, and time outdoors to support mental health.

We hope all our families enjoy a safe and restful summer. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe as we *journey together to live, learn and laugh with the love of God*.

If you have any safeguarding concerns over the summer, please contact the local authority or NSPCC helpline at **0808 800 5000**.

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

Online Safety Tip of the Week



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-enabled Scams

AI isn't just transforming the way we learn and work, it's also reshaping the tactics scammers use online. From generating convincing phishing emails to fabricating influencer videos, criminals are using AI to make their scams more convincing than ever. Young people, who often embrace new tech quickly, can be especially vulnerable.

This week's guide highlights several AI-enabled dangers – including romance scams, deepfake audio and video impersonations, and fake job offers – and explains how to spot and report them. With clear tips for verifying content, thinking critically, and using trusted platforms, it's essential reading for parents and educators to help young people stay one step ahead of the scammers.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, as well as a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the ISC Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.07.2025

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

**“Journeying together to Live,
Learn and Laugh with the Love of
God”**



A Prayer for Times of Change

Dear God,
Thank You for being with us every day,
In the happy times and the times that feel a little bit scary.

As we get ready for new things—
New classes, new teachers, and new adventures—
Help us to remember that You are always by our side.

When we feel nervous, give us courage.
When we feel excited, help us to share our joy.
When we feel unsure, remind us that You have a plan for us.

Thank You for our friends, our teachers, and our families
Who help us grow, learn, and laugh.
Help us to be kind, brave, and full of hope
As we journey together into this new chapter.

Amen.

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.



Journey Driver Focus:

Each half term, one child from each class is nominated by their class teacher for 'living out' our value of the half term. The value for this half term is 'Encourage Articulate Learners'

RECEPTION	Harry McInroy
YEAR 1	Andrew Angeles
YEAR 2	Elliot Seddon
YEAR 3	Olivia Nelson
YEAR 4	Mason
YEAR 5	Lily Hind
YEAR 6	Jake Mason



S. James's | *Your Church in Haydock*

Summer Fayre

Saturday 12th July | 10am – 2pm

home-made cakes & jams

tombola · raffle

plants · crafts · nearly-new

knitting · flowers

Refreshments

Church open:

Art-work

Exhibits on display

Prayer-tree

Follow us on: Facebook | [A Church Near You](#)

Vicar: Fr Michael Vyse | 01942 727 956 | jmov7822@gmail.com



**FREE
Admission**

Disability Awareness Day

Sunday 13th July 2025 ■ 10am to 4.30pm

Walton Gardens ■ Warrington ■ WA4 6SN

Promoting Independence Throughout Life & Work

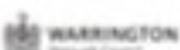
- 100's of Support Groups & Services
- Equipment & Vehicle Suppliers
- Performing & Visual Arts
- Main Arena
- Sports Zone
- Family Entertainment



Principal Sponsors



Organised by



01925 240064

www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk

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**MERSEYSIDE POLICE ARE
HOLDING A FREE SPORTS,
CRAFT AND GAMES EVENT
AT OUTWOOD ACADEMY
LEISURE CENTRE, CLIPSLEY
LANE, HAYDOCK,
ST HELENS.**



**Every Wednesday and Friday
throughout the summer holidays
from 30th July until 22nd August
- 1pm until 3pm.**

Ages 5 to 18. All abilities welcome.

**Under 10's need to be accompanied by
an adult at all times. Refreshments and
snacks will be provided.**

**Consent forms will need to be completed
on the first session by an adult.**



**For more information
or a consent form,
please contact:**

**PCSO Emma Stevens
0151 777 6147**

**PCSO Natalie Gabriel
0151 777 6139**



**PROJECT
MEDUSA**
TACKLING COUNTY LINES



prevention
is at our core, putting our community first



**MERSEYSIDE
POLICE**
Putting our Community First

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.



BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS

**JOIN BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS TAG
RUGBY TEAM 🏉
AGES 4-5 (RECEPTION)**



KATIE ~ 07546304197



Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.



#SmallReadsBigDreams



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



READING FOR PLEASURE

Fun for the whole family with weekly themes
focused on reading for pleasure.

Enjoy games, get advice from the library
outreach team, and borrow books for all.

Holy Spirit Primary School
Wednesdays, 3:15pm - 4:15pm
10th September until 8th October



Parish Church Primary School
Thursdays, 3:30pm - 4:30pm
11th September until 9th October



@STHLibraries



@sthlibrariesandarts

Booking is essential email
paulineglover@sthelens.gov.uk or
katestephenson@sthelens.gov.uk

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